

**Chamaedaphne calyculata - Myrica gale / Carex lasiocarpa Dwarf-shrubland**

COMMON NAME	Leatherleaf - Sweet Gale / Wiregrass Sedge Dwarf-shrubland
SYNONYM	Leatherleaf-Sweetgale Shore Fen
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Dwarf-shrubland (IV)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (IV.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Saturated needle-leaved or microphyllous evergreen dwarf-shrubland (IV.A.1.N.g)
ALLIANCE	CHAMAEDAPHNE CALYCVLATA SATURATED DWARF-SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

## RANGE

**Isle Royale National Park**

This community is an uncommon community that is scattered around the island near the Lake Superior shore.

**Globally**

This association is found in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Ontario.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

**Isle Royale National Park**

This community occupies wet depressions along the Lake Superior shore where water levels are influenced by lake processes.

**Globally**

This community is typically found on floating mats on the edges of lakes and streams, with localized shallow surface pools that may persist throughout the growing season. Stands occur where there is low wave and current energy with seasonal flooding; the water regime is otherwise saturated (Harris *et al.* 1996).

## MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

**Isle Royale National Park**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i> , <i>Myrica gale</i>
Graminoid	<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>

**Globally**

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Chamaedaphne calyculata</i> , <i>Myrica gale</i>
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## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

**Isle Royale National Park**

*Myrica gale*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*

**Globally**

*Myrica gale*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Carex lasiocarpa*

## VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

**Isle Royale National Park**

This leatherleaf - sweet gale shore fen is a peatland with a mixture of broad-leaved evergreen and deciduous shrubs and sedges. It often occurs as a floating mat. Cover of short shrubs (under 1 m tall, including dwarf shrubs) usually varies from 50 to 80%; the most abundant shrubs are *Myrica gale* (25 to 50% cover), *Chamaedaphne calyculata* (5 to 50% cover), *Andromeda polifolia* var. *glaucophylla* (1 to 10% cover), *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, and *V. macrocarpon* (each 0 to 5% cover). Scattered stunted trees and tall shrubs may be present (with 0 to 5% cover); most common are *Larix laricina* and *Picea mariana*. Cover of herbs varies from 50 to 80%; the most abundant herb is *Carex lasiocarpa*. Cover of mosses varies from 0 to 90%; the most abundant mosses are *Sphagnum* spp.

**Globally**

## USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

### Isle Royale National Park

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Low shrubs dominate the stands, generally over 60% cover. Dominant species include *Chamaedaphne calyculata* and *Myrica gale*. *Salix pedicellaris* is often present. The herbaceous layer is variable in cover and composition, sometimes shaded out by the heavy shrub cover. Species include *Calamagrostis canadensis*, *Carex aquatilis*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex rostrata*, and *Potentilla palustris* (Harris *et al.* 1996). In northern Minnesota a short shrub layer with low to moderate cover is often present, with *Myrica gale*, *Betula glandulifera*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix petiolaris*, and *Salix pedicellaris* the most abundant shrubs. In the dwarf-shrub layer *Chamaedaphne calyculata* is usually present at 80-100% cover but may be mixed with lesser amounts of *Andromeda glaucophylla* and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. In addition to bog plants such as *Eriophorum spissum* and *Drosera rotundifolia*, other minerotrophic indicators are also present at 10-40% cover. These include *Carex lacustris*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Typha latifolia*, *Calamagrostis canadensis*, and *Iris versicolor*. Occasionally, herbaceous cover may reach 90%. A continuous carpet of peat moss includes species such as *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum recurvum sensu stricta*, *Sphagnum angustifolium*, and *Sphagnum subsecundum sensu lato* (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

#### OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

##### **Isle Royale National Park**

Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGLO05228

MAP UNITS 67

#### COMMENTS

#### REFERENCES

Harris, A. G., S. C. McMurray, P. W. C. Uhlig, J. K. Jeglum, R. F. Foster, and G. D. Racey. 1996. Field guide to the wetland ecosystem classification for northwestern Ontario. Ont. Minist. Nat. Resour., Northwest Sci. Tech. Field Guide FG-01. Thunder Bay, Ont. 74 p.